

WALK BIKE QUESTIONNAIRE

2019 NASHVILLE METRO COUNCIL CANDIDATES

RUNOFF EDITION



In preparation for the 2019 Metropolitan General Elections, Walk Bike Nashville distributed a Walking and Biking Candidate Questionnaire to Metro Council candidates. This questionnaire is intended to help educate the public about the positions and ideas of each of the candidates. Walk Bike Nashville is a 501c3 non-profit, and

as such we do not endorse or support any candidate. For this runoff edition we only included the candidates in the runoff who filled out our original questionnaire

These are the answers as we received them, unedited, from the candidates.

1. What would you do as a council member to promote walking and biking in Nashville?

DeCosta Hastings	
Kyonzte Toombs	Currently, walking and biking is not safe in most of District 2 because most streets do not have bike lanes or sidewalks. As the District 2 councilperson, I would work to increase the number of sidewalks and bike lanes in the district so that it's actually safe to walk and bike. In addition to increasing sidewalks and bike lanes, I would host community events that encourage biking and walking.

2. What will you do as a Council Member to reduce pedestrian fatalities and severe injuries in your district and all of Nashville?

DeCosta Hastings	
Kyonzte Toombs	Increasing the number of sidewalks and crosswalks would go a long way in reducing fatalities and severe injuries. One of the most dangerous intersections, according to a recent study, is located in District 2 at the intersection of Brick Church Pike and West Trinity Lane. There is no crosswalk there. Pedestrians routinely cross the street into oncoming traffic. Increased lighting along the main streets within the district would also help.

3. What will you do as a council member to enact WalkNBike and expand low-stress bikeways? If a plan for new bikelanes came across your desk that you had the authority to approve and you thought it was the right thing to do, Metro staff agreed, but a vocal minority were strongly opposed, how would you move forward?

DeCosta Hastings	
Kyonzte Toombs	I support the WalkNBike plan because it ties into my platform of equity, affordability, and safety. As a government attorney, I have extensive experience working with diverse groups of people to solve problems. To solve problems, I believe in building consensus around the solution. As a member of a minority class,

I do not believe in discounting the voice of the minority. As councilperson, I would educate myself on the proposal, so that I could sit down with that "vocal minority" to address its members' concerns. I would also arrange for those members to meet with other individuals who support the plan, so that everyone can discuss their differences. In my experience, when a leader listens and gives people the opportunity to be heard, they are more likely to trust that leader's decision making. Most people are not seeking to have their way 100% of the time. They understand that sometimes, they won't get exactly what they want. However, they always want to be heard.

4. How can Metro Nashville reduce single-occupancy vehicle trips into downtown in order to ensure that new employees, Nashvillians, and visitors continue to have access to Nashville's urban core?

DeCosta Hastings	
Kyonzte Toombs	Nashville needs a better transit system. The current system is unreliable. People do not trust the system, so they opt to drive rather than use public transportation. If public transportation were more reliable (more frequent buses, longer hours of availability, safer bus stops with more benches and shelters, etc), then more people would use public transportation rather than driving. Given the expense of parking downtown and the difficulty in finding a parking spot downtown, reliable public transportation would greatly reduce the number of single-occupancy vehicle trips downtown.

5. The WalkNBike Plan states that only 19% of Nashville's streets have sidewalks. How can Metro expand our sidewalk network? As a council member, what would you do to support this?

DeCosta Hastings	
Kyonzte Toombs	As the District 2 councilperson, I will work to bring equity, affordability, and safety to my district (and all of Nashville). Increasing the number of sidewalks increases connectivity and makes commuting in our neighborhoods and throughout the city easier, more affordable, and safer. We expand our sidewalk network by making it a priority and committing to exploring and actually using all possible revenue sources so that we can meet the sidewalk needs of the city.

6. Transportation remains severely underfunded in Nashville and lacks a dedicated, consistent funding source. Which of the follow options would you support? Please explain.

A. Referendum to raise sales tax, business tax hotel/motel tax, and/or wheel tax

B. Increasing property taaxes and using those funds for transportation

- C. Bonds
- D. Other _____
- E. None of the above

DeCosta Hastings	
Kyonzte Toombs	Undecided

6. b. Please explain your response to the options above.

DeCosta Hastings	
Kyonzte Toombs	I am committed to finding a consistent funding source for transportation. Many District 2 residents do not have a reliable source of transportation. So, improved transit is a must. I would need additional information to determine the fiscal impact of using the sources listed above.

7. What are your thoughts about the Metro Traffic Calming Program? Should speed-management (either lowering speed limits or adding physical traffic calming) be used to slow car speeds? If so on what type of streets?

DeCosta Hastings	
Kyonzte Toombs	There is concern in District 2 about the safety of children playing in the neighborhoods with cars zooming by them. Traffic calming in residential areas that have a lot of children as well as in areas that are known to be particularly dangerous would be beneficial. As councilperson, I will definitely have discussions with my constituents as to which neighborhoods would benefit from participation in the traffic calming program.